

Donna Chavis

Ms. Donna Chavis, a Lumbee woman, is a proven leader within the State and has demonstrated a true commitment to enriching North Carolina. Along with other notable North Carolinians, she was featured in the 2009 book "Secrets of Success: North Carolina Values-Based Leadership."

Donna is committed to equity and inclusive practices. That commitment led her to accept leadership roles such as membership on the planning committee for the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit. The Principles of Environmental Justice came out of the Summit and continue to inform the environmental justice movement today. Through her advocacy, Donna was able to ensure that indigenous nations were represented in the leadership and general participation of the summit.

As a philanthropic leader, Donna has served in a variety of board positions including having the distinction of being the first American Indian woman to chair a national foundation. The Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation was on the forefront of private funding for Women's Reproductive Health/Justice and Environmental Justice funding during her terms and continues to be committed to inclusive practices. Donna is pleased to see how these important issues have evolved and become recognized and supported in the mainstream.

She currently serves on the board of the First Image Corporation of Robeson Health Care Corporation and the board of Lillian's List. She was a founding member of the Alliance to Protect our People and the Places we Live (APPPL).

During her past tenure on the board of PPCNC she served as a member of the Board Development, Finance and Executive Committees and held the offices of Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect and Chair and as a member of the PPCNC Merger Committee and the PPCNC/PPHS Joint Merger Committee.

For the past year she has uniquely worked with small teams of members from NC eastern tribes, to ensure that Indigenous Peoples along the ACP corridor are engaged and included in the decision making processes that impact their communities. Most recently she played a significant role in planning an information meeting for indigenous farmers and landowners who are situated along the ACP route.